

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANJUL 00342 101032Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /026 W
-----101636Z 102910 /40

R 101000Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
SECSTATE WASHDC 4138
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 0342

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PFOR SL EG
SUBJECT: NEW SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, H.O. ZUBAIRU

REF FREETOWN 0719 (NOTAL)

1. HAROUN OLUWOLE ZUBAIRU, NEWLY APPOINTED SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, HAS ONLY BEEN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE GAMBIA FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN MONTHS. ZUBAIRUS'S TRANSFER HAS COME RATHER SUDDENLY (EVIDENTLY IT SURPRISED HIM TO RECEIVE WORD OF THE CHANGE ONLY 10 DAYS AGO), AND HE SEEMS GENUINELY SORRY THAT HIS TOUR HERE HAS BEEN SO BRIEF. ZUBAIRU PLANS TO LEAVE BANJUL MARCH 10 FOR FREETOWN, WHERE HE WILL SPEND SEVERAL WEEKS OF PREPARATION AND LEAVE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO.

2. A QUITE, REFLECTIVE MAN, ZUBAIRU WAS FRIENDLY WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND APPEARED TO ENJOY EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH GAMBIANS. ALTHOUGH IN HIS MID-60S, ZUBAIRU REMAINS VIGOROUS AND WAS A DURABLE FIGURE ON LOCAL SCENE. SOMEWHAT SHYA BOUT HIS LACK OF DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, ZUBAIRU CAN BE SHREWD AND PERCEPTIVE IN HIS OBSERVATIONS, ONCE THE FORMALITIES OF OFFICE ARE PUT ASIDE. A DEVOUT MUSLIM, ZUBAIRU IS ESPECIALLY DEVOTED TO HIS NUMEROUS
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CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. HE HAS BEEN A WIDOWER FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT SPEAKS OF PERHAPS TAKING A NEW WIFE TO CAIRO.

3. ZUBAIRU HAS ALWAYS BEEN NOTABLY FRIENDLY AND FORTHCOMING WITH CHARGE. HE WOULD BE WELL WORTH CULTIVATING IN CAIRO AS EXPERIENCED SENIOR OFFICIAL OF SMALL BUT IMPORTANT WEST AFRICAN

ANGLOPHONE COUNTRY. ZUBAIRU MADE POINT OF TELLING CHARGE HOW
MUCH HE HAD APPRECIATED CLOSE RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY.
HE HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT EMBASSY CAIRO WILL ALSO BE MOST
INTERESTED TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH HIM AND HIS NEW MISSION.
WYGANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANJUL00342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-1180
Format: TEL
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacntm.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02bad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 FREETOWN 719
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3155123
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, H.O. ZUBAIRU
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PDIP, SL, EG, (ZUBAIRU, HO)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02bad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009